## REMARKS

The specification has been amended above to make reference to parent International Application No. PCT/JP00/01024 (filed February 23, 2000) and Japanese Patent Application No. 11-047095 (filed February 24, 1999), from which International Application No. PCT/JP00/01024 claims benefit.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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